

“...we don't know another way in which we could have had such an interdisciplinary experience. The insight into the formation of health policy will certainly be invaluable as we continue our paths.”

- Quote from June 2001
TIHPP Students



Program Administrators

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**For additional information please contact
Dr. Bess, Dr. Mirvis or Professor Parker.**

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to the principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. Authorization No. 339410, 2,500 copies, January 2002. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.38 per copy.

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TENNESSEE Interdisciplinary HEALTH POLICY Program



**A Joint Project
University of Tennessee
and
The Department of Mental Health
and Developmental Disabilities**

Law, Medical and Pharmacy Student Healthcare Policy Fellowship Rotation

Qualifications for the Rotation of University of Tennessee Student

Low students must be in an approved law school program and have a special interest in learning healthcare law. Medical and Pharmacy students must be in an accredited College of Medicine or College of Pharmacy and have a special interest in the interdisciplinary team approach to improve the public arena of healthcare in Tennessee.

Goals for the Rotation include:

- To understand the importance and effectiveness of an interdisciplinary team (PharmD, MD, Law students) approach in resolving issues in a dynamic healthcare system.
- To acquire knowledge and skills to understand the basics of a managed care system including the formation, structure, regulation, function, strengths, and weaknesses.
- To acquire knowledge and skills regarding the structure, daily functions and regulatory activities of various professional boards.
- To understand the legal aspects of public healthcare from both the prosecution and defense perspectives.
- To understand healthcare policy and regulations as they exist interdependently and collaboratively between state agencies.
- To develop a research project utilizing the information gained for this rotation in connection with research and statistical data available in state databanks and academic education.

Dr. Todd Bess, Dr. Judy Regan, and Martha Robinson discussing the TIHPP.



Student Rotation through State Departments and Agencies Include:

- **The Department of Health, Board of Licensure**
The Board of Medical Examiners is responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans by insuring all who practice medicine and surgery within the state are qualified. The board interprets the laws, rules and regulations to determine the appropriate standards of practice in order to assure the highest degree of professional conduct.
- **The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy**
This board is responsible for regulating the pharmacy profession. It monitors the pharmacists of Tennessee to assure competent pharmaceutical care to the public for legitimate medical purposes in accordance with state and federal laws and policies.
- **The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI)**
The TBI has several departments that interface with healthcare. They are as follows:
 1. **Medicaid/TennCare Fraud Control Unit.** The MFCU is federally mandated to investigate provider fraud in the state Medicaid/TennCare program. Examples of TennCare fraud include: dispensing generic drugs and billing the MCO for expensive brand-name drugs, billing twice for the same medical service, billing for a more expensive service than rendered, billing for medical services not performed, preventing those with serious or chronic illnesses from enrolling in the program, submitting false enrollment information, denying a recipient necessary care to save money and abuse or neglect of patients. The majority of the MFCU's fraud cases are federally prosecuted.
 2. **Drug Investigation Unit.** The mission of the narcotics investigation division is to investigate, gather evidence and assist in the prosecution of criminal offenses involving controlled substances, narcotics and other drugs. The unit investigates drug trafficking cases including marijuana-related charges, cocaine, LSD, steroids and prescription drugs.
- **Juvenile Justice/Department of Children Services**
The Juvenile Justice System works with children involved in the court system. It works closely with court advocates in assisting children who have been abused, neglected or dependent and other children placed out of the home. These advocates interact with the court and other agencies to ensure children receive necessary healthcare services and appropriate resources.
- **Department of Correction**
The Department of Correction (DOC) is responsible for the health treatment of prisoners in Tennessee. The Deberry Center houses inmates with psychiatric illnesses in addition to special units for sex abusers and offenders with mental retardation.

Preceptors

Judge Betty Adams Greene Juvenile Court	Dr. James Roth Medical Director of Related Boards
Bob Ross, Juvenile Court Abuse Division	Kendall Lynch, D.Ph Director, TN Board of Pharmacy
Dr. David Shepard Legislator	Leonard Lococo DOC/Prison Health
Greg Adkins Legislature/Researcher	Dr. Laurence Kandel Medical Director DOC
Rob Wilson, JD, Office of Secretary of State	Dr. Michael Kimberly Director of Lab Services TN Dept. of Health
Dr. Conrad Shackelford Acting Medical Director for TennCare	Det. Sgt. Mark Chesnut Nashville Metro Police Child Abuse Section
Larry Wallace Director TBI	Betty Boner, JD OGC TennCare
Richard Littlehale, TBI	